

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 19292 181547Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 SSM-03 IO-13 /081 W  
-----031126 191223Z /50

R 181540Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2803  
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA  
USMISSION SINAI  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: PINT PGOV EG  
SUBJECT: PRESS ON NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND OTHER  
- INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS.

1. MAIN STORY IN PRESS AUGUST 18 IS WORKING GROUPS OF  
SADAT'S NEW PARTY WILL START VISITING GOVERNORATES NEXT  
MONDAY TO EXPLAIN PARTY PROGRAM, HOLD DIALOGUE WITH  
CITIZENS AND AID IN PARTY FORMATION IN EACH GOVERNORATE.  
MEANWHILE, SADAT WILL ATTEND A POPULAR RALLY IN TELA,  
MENEFIYA, ON TUESDAY, AT WHICH HE WILL EXPLAIN PROGRAM  
AND OBJECTIVES OF PARTY AND RUN FOR ELECTION AS ONE OF  
PARTY REPRESENTATIVES FROM TELA. SADAT REPORTEDLY WILL  
GO TO HIS VILLAGE OF MIT ABU AL-KOM TODAY TO SPEND TEN  
DAYS. SADAT'S AUGUST 17 MEETING WITH ALEXANDRIA FISHER-  
MEN IS ANOTHER FRONT-PAGE STORY. OSMAN AHMED OSMAN AGAIN  
ACCOMPANIED THE PRESIDENT AND HIS PICTURE APPEARS ON FRONT  
PAGE OF GUMHURIYYA.

2. BAR ASSOCIATION. AUGUST 18 PRESS CARRIES EGYPTIAN  
BAR ASSOCIATION ADVERTISEMENT FOR A MEETING AUGUST 23 IN  
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HONOR OF SAAD ZAGHLOUL AND MUSTAFA NUHAS PASHA, TWO  
PROMINENT WAFD LEADERS. IT IS INTERESTING THAT ADVERTISE-  
MENT WAS ALLOWED TO RUN SINCE BAR ASSOCIATION CRITICIZED  
SADAT'S DELIBERALIZATION MOVES LAST MAY. MOREOVER, A  
SPEECH DELIVERED BY SARAGEDDIN AT SIMILAR OCCASION LAST  
YEAR LED TO THE TEMPORARY RESURRECTION OF THE WAFD PARTY.  
WE WILL BE WATCHING WITH INTEREST GOVERNMENT'S REACTIONS

TO AUGUST 23 MEETING.

3. CHANGE IN STATUS OF SHEIKH MAHMUD. GUMHURIYYA  
REPORTS THAT THE SHEIKH OF AL AZHAR UNIVERSITY, DR. ABDEL  
HALIM MAHMUD, HAS NOW BEEN APPOINTED (PRESUMABLY DEMOTED)  
"ACTING" SHEIKH. PAPER IMPLIES REASON FOR CHANGE IS THAT  
RECENTLY PASSED WORKERS LAW MANDATES RETIREMENT FOR ALL  
WHO, LIKE SHEIKH MAHMUD, ARE OVER 60. STORY SAYS  
SHEIKH MAHMUD WILL CONTINUE AS "ACTING SHEIKH" UNTIL  
NEXT JULY 30. THIS CHANGE IN SHEIKH MAHMUD'S STATUS,  
COUPLED WITH RETIREMENT LAST WEEK OF THE GRAND MUFTI OF  
EGYPT, SHEIKH MOHAMED KHATER, MAY SIGNAL START OF MOVES  
BY SADAT TO REMOVE EXTREMELY CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS FROM  
THE ISLAMIC ESTABLISHMENT. EILTS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL PARTIES, VISITS, ATTORNEYS, MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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